



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD
OF TRUSTEES**

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

June 23, 2022

5:00 PM

Speakers In Attendance

Chairman Don Kaminski
Vice Chair Tim Gamble
Treasurer Nancy Maslach
Trustee Patty Browning
Trustee Sam Faga (Absent)

Kevin Romero – REMSA
Stephani Otteson – Tonopah Volunteer Ambulance
Queenie Manuel – Frontier Medical Group
Dr. Govind Koka - Frontier Medical Group
Tom Vallas - Legal
Devon Eisma – OptimuMedicine: CEO/Nurse
Dr. Russell Pillers – Biowerx
Horace Carlyle – Public Member
Kirk Greber – Public Member

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge Recited

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).

No general public comment

3. Approval of the Agenda for June 23, 2022. (Non-action Item)

Item 5 removed

4. Announcements (first)

Trustee Browning announced that the EMS gathering will be on August 27th and 28th in the Tonopah Convention Center.

5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Item removed

6. Trustees’/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

No Trustees’/Liaison comments

7. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of various entities looking to provide medical services inside the clinic at 825 S. Main st. and any corresponding contracts and or presentations.

Queenie Manuel Introduced the business proposal for Frontier Medical Group LLC. This group was looking for an opportunity to open a Urgent Care/Quick Care/Walk-in Clinic with the intention of having primary care and eventually include the necessary specialists to fit the needs of the community.

Dr. Govind Koka explained that the supporting documents in the Frontier Medical Group presentation includes financial explanations, services they would offer, capitol requirements, and general use of finances.

Vice Chair Gamble asked what grants they anticipate to be able to apply for as a private, for-profit corporation.

Ms. Manuel responded that they intend to apply for HRSA and other grants for private companies.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that Rural Health Information Hub has no grants available in the state of Nevada to a private corporation right now. He asked if they had researched this.

Ms. Manuel stated that she has reached out to the local community and government and can ask for those grants as well as she knows that HRSA has one and National Rural Company has one. She would need to have an existing facility to apply.

Ms. Manuel explained that she is very familiar with the supplies and licensing that are needed inside the clinic at 825 S. Main due to prior employment with Dr. Van Le (Central Nevada Regional Care).

Vice Chair Gamble asked what licensing they anticipate.

Ms. Manuel replied that first will be the CLIA waved for the X-ray, medical director and staff licensing, Nevada Department of Health for radiology, rural community licensing, and eventually move the CLIA waved to a moderate.

Ms. Manuel gave a brief history of her and Dr. Koka's working history and other business ventures.

Ms. Manuel confirmed that they intend to staff the clinic with PA's and plan to stay open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm.

Board legal representative Mr. Tom Vallas asked who the supervising physician will be.

Dr. Koka stated that it will either be himself or another physician depending on how many PA's they employ.

Trustee Browning asked where they intend to get support staff including a phlebotomist, front office, and back office?

Ms. Manuel shared that her goal is to hire current staff from one of her Vagas locations to work in the Tonopah clinic temporarily to be able to train and license people that already live in Tonopah.

Ms. Manuel shared information regarding the mobile clinic that she intends to bring to surrounding areas once a month.

Mr. Devon Eisma gave a brief history of his business and field experience as well as an introduction of OptimuMedicine. He also gave a description of his vision for the Clinic in Tonopah.

Mr. Eisma gave a detailed presentation following the provided documentation provided as back up. Presentation included description of current health care services available in Tonopah, how those services work together, community needs, proposed services, clinical needs in Tonopah, staffing intentions, intended hours of operation, clinical services, funding, and sustainability including a sliding fees scale to uninsured/underinsured patients, and planning projects for the future including a partnership with Nevada-based specialists to attract needed specialties.

Treasurer Maslach asked Mr. Eisma how soon they could come to Tonopah.

Mr. Eisma stated that he thinks a reasonable start date is August 1st. He stated that there's a chance that it could be sooner but it'll depend on a couple of things.

Vice Chair Gamble asked about the internet capabilities on the mobile clinic units.

Mr. Eisma stated that they utilize cradle points and if there is cell data reception then they are able to use the cradle points.

Vice Chair Gamble asked if they have a state mandated Medical Director.

Mr. Eisma explained that they have several.

Vice Chair Gamble and Mr. Eisma discussed the lab testing capabilities that OptimuMedicine is working on for their transport program. They also discussed Rural Health Care Center enhanced reimbursement.

Mr. Eisma shared that they are very familiar with Dr. Malone, the REMSA Medical Director and feels he understands what UptimuMedicine is doing. Mr. Eisma felt comfortable that they would be able to work with him.

Trustee Patty Browning asked for a cost estimate.

Mr. Eisma shared that he thinks the initial estimate of \$70,000 is enough to get started but their goal is to be self sufficient eventually.

Vice Chair Gamble spoke in reference to OptimuMedicine's emergency vehicles and asked that if the Tonopah ambulance is on another call or unavailable, would they be willing and/or able to utilize their own ambulance to support the 911 system in a backup fashion.

Mr. Eisma confirmed that they would if everyone is on the same page and knows the plan and why they are responding.

Trustee Browning asked both groups (Frontier Medical Group LLC and OptimuMedicine) how they see their role in supporting the education of the Tonopah Volunteer Ambulance staff.

Mr. Eisma stated that OptimuMedicine already supports the Tonopah EMT class as test support. He also shared that their doors will always be open for individuals to come in and practice/learn.

Vice Chair Gamble asked OptimuMedicine if they have monthly CEU classes that may be able to be brought to Tonopah.

Mr. Eisma shared that they are a training center and are very well equipped to provide those classes.

Dr. Govind Koka shared that Frontier Medical Group currently has multiple levels of students (Nursing, PA, MA, MD) that they teach routinely .

Ms. Queenie Manuel responded to Trustee Browning's question in regards to a cost estimate and shared that they expect to be self-sustaining within 8-12 months.

Trustee Browning asked both groups (Frontier Medical Group LLC and OptimuMedicine) if they will have the ability to provide occupational health.

Ms. Manuel shared that there is a Tonopah local that can do the DOT drug screens and they have a provider that can perform the medical portion of the physical, if the local is willing to come work for them.

Mr. Eisma shared that they have a nurse practitioner that is DOT Certified and can perform fit tests, drug screens, chain of custody, titers, immunizations, ect.

Board legal counsel Mr. Vallas asked what type of entity OptimuMedicine is. And how their physicians work for them.

Mr. Eisma shared that they are an LLC and that some of them work for them as employees and others (such as physicians) are contracted through a physician group.

Board legal counsel Mr. Vallas advised the Board that until they see an actual proposal with numbers to review, they do not have anything to vote on.

Chairman Kaminski asked Board legal counsel Mr. Vallas to explain the loan system they had discussed earlier together.

Board legal counsel Mr. Vallas shared that if the Hospital District needs to fund a clinic up-front to keep help with start up costs, then at some point, when that group collects an income the Hospital District would expect to get some return on those funds. The Hospital District does not want people to be profiting off of the taxpayers.

Chairman Kaminski asked both groups (Frontier Medical Group LLC and OptimuMedicine) how they would feel about the process described by Mr. Vallas.

Ms. Manuel asked for clarification on the loan payment process and was provided clarity by Mr. Vallas via re-explanation.

Vice Chair Gamble asked both groups (Frontier Medical Group LLC and OptimuMedicine) If the proposed process describer by Mr. Vallas sounded like a “massive accounting burden” to them and if not he stated that it shouldn’t be a big deal to have their accounts separated enough that that they could be audited at the end of the year to verify, to allow taxpayers to see that they're getting their money's worth, and they're getting their money back if needed.

Ms. Manuel shared that this would be available for anyone to look at.

Mr. Eisma stated that he thinks that the exact concept, Mr. Vallas mentioned will work, that operating cost, plus whatever that margin is that everybody can live with, is the way to go. It could present some accounting challenges but would incentivize the provider to be on their own and self-sufficient.

Public Comment-

Kevin Romero with REMSA shared that he looks forward to working with either entity and wanted to remind the Board that the agenda item is a discussion and deliberation of various entities looking to provide medical services inside the clinic. He wanted to make sure that the Board is clear that this agenda item is for clinic services specifically.

Vice Chair Tim Gamble asked Mr. Romero if a provider has a patient in their clinic, and they, for instance, contract with 1/6 different private ambulance companies to transport to that clinic, would it hurt that system drastically or be any type of regulatory issue?

Mr. Romero responded that he does not believe there is any type of regulatory issue.

Board legal council Mr. Vallas shared that he thinks both candidates are good and both candidates would provide good service. But, to make a good decision, the Hospital Board needs to see firm commitments and timelines.

Public Comment-

Mr. Horace Carlyle shared that if he were involved in this decision, he would not take the Boards offer. He questioned if the new clinic makes a profit, how much of that would the Board take from them, and questioned how a business could survive like that.

Chairman Kaminski offered clarity and shared that the Board isn't doing this to make a profit, they just want to help the provider become self-sustaining to provide for the community. He also stated that the timeline for repaying the loan would be negotiable.

Vice Chair Gamble recommends putting both providers onto a document similar to how a FRP would look to compare them. He also asked both providers groups (Frontier Medical Group LLC and OptimuMedicine) what enough time is to give them to create a proposal for the Board.

Mr. Eisma shared that 3-5 days would be sufficient.

Public Comment-

Horace Carlyle shared that he is concerned that the Board is giving Dr. Van LE (Central Nevada Regional Care) a basis to file a law suit against the Hospital District.

Chairman Kaminski shared that the Board has attempted to contact Dr. Le to no avail.

Trustee Browning motions that Vice Chair Gamble be the central point to work on a document that would state requirements for contract to provide care in the clinic, that he worked with both groups on what the Hospital District requirements are, what the Hospital District reporting requirements are, all the documents and information that they need so that they can prep for a formal presentation to include the services they can provide and at what cost they can provide that and what they look like including reimbursements and what the reimbursements would look like.

Treasurer Maslach second's motion.

Motion passes, 4-0

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)

Trustee Browning shared that her EMS event mentioned at the beginning of the meeting will be from 8am till 4pm

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)

No announcements

10. ADJOURN

06.23.2023 Meeting Adjourned

Approved this 16th day of March 2023

Chair